

experiment in liberty rooted in mutual assistance and democratic aspiration.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS SOUTHWEST OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS INC.

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc., as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

In 1983, a group of doctors at Stevens Park Osteopathic Hospital decided to form a social welfare organization with the noble intention of investing in charitable causes in the Dallas community. With \$7 million in hand, the doctors invested their money, the returns on which led to large contributions to medicine, education, and community development initiatives. Over 20 years, the organization doubled its assets and has since contributed more than \$12 million in grants, scholarships, and financial assistance, to numerous community projects.

The Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians have granted gifts to organizations and individuals in nearly every facet of life. Among their many gifts to the community, the Physicians have granted gifts to build a community center at the Oak Cliff YMCA; construct a playground for the handicapped; establish a Fire Safety House for the Dallas Fire Department; start a Bookmobile for the Dallas Public Library; and establish the Endowed Chair in Clinical Geriatrics at UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

By benefiting the truly needy and encouraging philanthropy in Dallas, the physicians have made a significant and indelible imprint on Southwest Dallas.

Mr. Speaker, Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Inc. has helped over 150 beneficiaries over 20 years. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring them today, and wishing them the very best in their continuing efforts.

JOHN CZUCZMAN, INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF TWU RETIRES

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to John Czuczman upon his retirement from the Transportation Workers Union TWU. Before retiring, Mr. Czuczman served as International Vice President and Director of the Railroad Division for TWU representing employees throughout the Northeast and Midwest.

Mr. Czuczman began his career in the rail industry in 1955 as an employee of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad and was a member of the TWU Local 1427. In 1968, he successfully ran for Local 1427 President and Grievance Chairman. He continued to serve the Local 1427 in those positions for the next 14 years. During his tenure as President, Mr.

Czuczman was an active member of the union's Policy Making Board for railroad members.

In 1980, TWU's late president William Lindner appointed Mr. Czuczman to the International Union's staff as an International Representative. While on the International's staff, Mr. Czuczman was involved in most of the Union's key negotiations and arbitrations. He served as TWU's representative on the task force that put Conrail together in the early 1980's. Additionally, he participated in the crucial TWU negotiations that led to the takeover of Conrail's commuter lines by SEPTA, Metro-North and the New Jersey Transit in 1982. Mr. Czuczman also served as Chairman of the Conrail Screening Committee and participated in a number of Conrail's contract negotiations. Since 1982, Mr. Czuczman has negotiated every contract with Amtrak involving the Joint Council of Carmen and the Amtrak Service Workers Council.

A tireless fighter for the rights of rail workers, Mr. Czuczman has been a strong advocate for the protection and improvement of the benefits provided by the Railroad Retirement Board. He also served as a member of the Board of Governors for Amtrak's Red Block Program which offers assistance, education and rehabilitation to those with alcohol and substance abuse problems.

Mr. Speaker, for almost 50 years John Czuczman has been a tireless advocate for the right of railroad workers. From negotiating contracts, to lobbying, to advocating for better benefits, to just simply being a friend to his fellow workers, John has served his fellow rail workers with dignity and class. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me today in wishing John a long and happy retirement.

MISSOURI RICE MONTH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Missouri Rice Month and to urge all Americans to enjoy rice as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Rice is the staple grain for more than 4 billion men, women, and children worldwide. Eight out of ten people depend on rice for 40 percent of their energy needs.

As a \$2 billion cash crop, rice is the fifth most valuable food crop in America. Rice is vital to the economic stability of agricultural producers across the nation. Moreover, America exports rice to more than 100 foreign countries, providing nearly 15 percent of the rice in the global market.

With 1.2 billion of the world's population living in poverty and 800 million undernourished, there is no more serious issue than hunger relief. Here in America, we have the rice supply to alleviate much of this suffering - and no continent in the world has been affected more by hunger than Africa.

In July, three rice farmers from Stoddard County, Missouri, accompanied me to Rome to learn more about how to get our Missouri products to African communities that desperately need food aid. Internationally, the World Food Programme and the Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations

are working to implement commonsense programs to educate Africans on American agricultural products, to increase American exports and food aid to Africa, and to initiate school feeding programs.

By enabling America's thriving rice producers to meet the food needs of the starving and malnourished around the world, we can overcome hunger. But first we must raise awareness of America's quality agricultural exports. As more nations accept our food products for their own hunger relief, the demand for our rice will continue to grow. The satisfaction of improving and saving lives is the only reward America needs.

Missouri Rice Month will help us meet our humanitarian goals, and Missouri Rice Farmers will keep growing the grain that feeds the world.

WHAT DOES AMERICANISM MEAN TO ME?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the inspirational message of a perceptive eighth grader, Tess Spinola, winner of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA) annual State Essay Contest. The contest, which began in 1948, was held throughout the East Bay Area of San Francisco. This year's question was "What does Americanism mean to me?" Tess attends St. Joseph's Elementary School in Alameda, CA in my district.

Founded on March 5, 1947, the Oakland Unit (#7) Auxiliary of DAVA brought together wives, sisters, daughters and mothers of those injured or disabled during wartime. The group of women decided at that time to dedicate their efforts to give back to the nation in a variety of ways. They work with local youth to bring more of America's young people to community service. Not all their work is purely organization, of course. DAVA created 100 baby quilts and gave them to nearby Highland Hospital, along with hand-made wheelchair bags and lap ropes for veterans. A few women in the Oakland Unit put on a party for people with Alzheimer's disease; others chair an Olympics for those with disabilities. In the words of Eva Mae Perakis, past state commander, "Our main purpose is to stimulate patriotism in the country and bring joy and awareness to the community."

Ms. Perakis described the essay contest as "overwhelmingly heart-warming." She said she receives letters from students who said it enriched their young lives to study and learn about veterans. "They realize they didn't really appreciate those freedoms they took for granted," she noted. Ms. Perakis also noted that the essays have "touched a few adult hearts as well."

"The contest causes our children to think and investigate inside themselves," Ms. Perakis said. "It's good for their minds. We're just trying to make our young students aware of what freedom really means. We hope they get that awareness as they write." Mr. Speaker, we all know that our children represent the future, and that someday they will be running this great country of ours. But, their impact frequently comes much before their maturation to